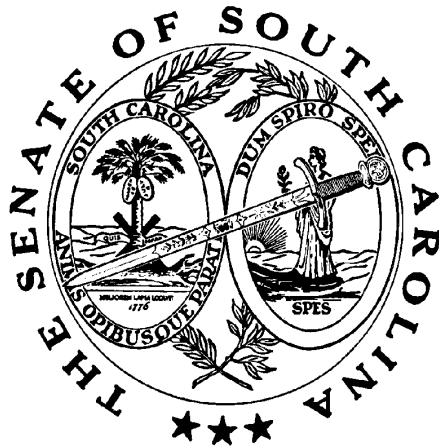


NO. 28

JOURNAL
OF THE
SENATE
OF THE
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGULAR SESSION BEGINNING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

Friday, March 6, 2009
(Local Session)

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~
Indicates New Matter

The Senate assembled at 11:00 A.M., the hour to which it stood adjourned, and was called to order by the ACTING PRESIDENT, Senator SETZLER.

Findings of Fact

The Committee to Screen Candidates for Boards of Trustees of State Colleges and Universities finds the following candidates for Boards of Trustees qualified. Background reports from the State Law Enforcement Division show no felony charges against any of the candidates.

Memorandum To: Clerk of the House
Clerk of the Senate
Re: Committee Hearings, February 17, 2009

The Committee to Screen Candidates for Boards of Trustees of State Colleges and Universities finds the following candidates for Boards of Trustees qualified. Background reports from the State Law Enforcement Division show no felony charges against any of the candidates.

Coastal Carolina University

Six congressional districts, one at-large

1 st District, Seat 1 (expires 2011)	Mr. Larry Biddle
	Ms. Natasha M. Hanna
2 nd District, Seat 4	Mr. Robert G. Templeton
3 rd District, Seat 6	Mr. William L. Lyles, Jr.
4 th District, Seat 8 (expires 2010)	Mr. D. Wyatt Henderson
	Mr. Brad Spink
5 th District, Seat 10	Mr. Robert D. Brown
6 th District, Seat 12	Mr. J. Wayne George
At-large, Seat 14	Mr. William H. Alford

College of Charleston

At-large, Seat 13 (expires 2010)	Mr. Daniel Ravenel
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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

South Carolina State

Two congressional districts, two at-large

5 th District, Seat 5	Ms. Linda Edwards-Duncan
6 th District, Seat 6	Mr. Maurice G. Washington
	Ms. Patricia Lott
At-large, Seat 8	Dr. Shirley Portee Martin
	Mr. Bill Goodwin, Jr.
	Mr. James C. Hampton
	Mr. Matthew T. Richardson
At-large, Seat 10	Mr. Jonathan Pinson
	Mrs. Carolyn M. Govan
	Mr. Lemeul C. Stephens

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School

<i>At-large, four seats</i>	Mr. Stewart Cooner
	Mr. Russell E. Hart
	Mr. Wayne Sims
	Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill

Winthrop University

One congressional district, one at-large

1 st Cong. District (expires 2012)	Mr. Timothy Sease
At-large, Seat 9	Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr.

Old Exchange Building Commission

One At-Large Seat - Term to Expire 2012

Alexia Jones Helsley
C. Steven Moskos
Greg Ohanesian
Donald D. Pittman

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Jake Knotts, Chairman	Rep. Joan Brady, Vice-Chairman
Senator Thomas Alexander	Rep. Lanny F. Littlejohn
Senator Harvey Peeler, Jr.	Rep. David Mack
Senator Yancey McGill	Rep. Bill Whitmire

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

**COMMITTEE TO SCREEN CANDIDATES
FOR BOARDS OF TRUSTEES OF STATE
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

The meeting was conducted on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 433 Blatt Building, Columbia, South Carolina, before Lisa F. Huffman, Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of South Carolina.

APPEARANCES:

Senator Jake Knotts, Chairman
Senator Thomas Alexander
Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
Representative Lanny F. Littlejohn
Representative David Mack
Representative Bill Whitmire

Sophia Derrick, Administrative Assistant

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. At this time, we'll go to the At-large, Seat 10. Mr. Leonard --

MS. DERRICK: That's Lemeul.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: -- Lemeul Stephens. Mr. Stephens?

MR. STEPHENS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Would you come forward and give us a little information as why you want to be on the South Carolina State Board. But first of all, I'm going to ask you a few questions. These are just basic questions we have to ask everybody.

Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. STEPHENS: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. STEPHENS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MR. STEPHENS: No, sir. I do currently serve on the Board of Directors of the State Club at the University from which, if I were selected, I would resign.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. STEPHENS: No, sir. I do not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other have any questions they would like to ask about any of his possible conflicts? Okay. Hearing none, why do you want to serve on the South Carolina State Board?

MR. STEPHENS: Good morning. First, I'd like to express my condolences to the committee and to the entire legislature on the death of the previous chairman of this committee, the Honorable Representative Olin Phillips. I know his absence will create a conspicuous void in your chambers. To the Honorable Vice Chairman of this Screening Committee, Senator Jake Knotts, and other esteemed members of the Committee: My name is Lemeul Stephens and I am seeking approved candidacy for election to Seat 10 of the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees. Having at one time served on the state commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, I'm acutely aware of particular and specific requirements that Boards of Trustees must meet in providing excellent governance. It has been much to my chagrin that I have all too often run the various misguided and embarrassing governance practices that plagued our university. While there are certainly astute, progressive, and learned individuals who are seated on our Board, that have the requisite leadership skills and insights. Until they serve in the majority, it will be impossible to redirect its path. I present myself to you today as one who has the leadership skill set, a wide variety of relevant experiences, and the fortitude to help reshape our Board. My mantra is a vision to establish both a mind set and a template for excellent governance. In tandem with like-minded Board members who are unafraid to engage in spirited debate and -- about pertinent paths to effective leadership, we can focus our emphasis on policy functions that drive administrative decision making, protect intellectual property rights, eliminate conflicts of interests, in both in writing and in practice, abide by the very clear distinction between policy development and administrative function. I have the leadership skills, the insight

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

required into the required governance paradigms, and the related experience to assist in the metamorphosis of our Board, which has already begun with some of the more recent elections. The information that I have provided to you provides just a glimpse into the totality of my preparation for this commitment. I stand ready to accept the responsibility, devote the time and energy, and rise to the challenge of this call. Thank you. Now I'll accept any questions that you may have for me.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do we have any questions from any Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

MR. STEPHENS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I'd like for all of the candidates to please stand and raise your right hand. Larry Biddle, Natasha Hanna, Robert Templeton, William Lyles, Wyatt Henderson, Brad Spink, Robert Brown, Wayne George, William Alford, Daniel Ravenel, Linda Edwards-Duncan, Maurice Washington, Patricia Lott, Shirley Martin, Bill Goodwin, James Hampton, Matthew Richardson, Jonathan Pinson, Carolyn Govan, Lemeul Stephens, Stewart Cooner, Russell Hart, Wayne Sims, Elizabeth Thrailkill, Timothy Sease, and Dalton B. Floyd. Also, Alecia -- Alex -- Alex --

MS. DERRICK: Alexia

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Alexia Helsley, Steven --

MS. DERRICK: Moskos.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Moskos, Greg Ohanesian, Donald Pittman. I hope I didn't do too much damage to your last name. Would you raise your right hand? Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to this commission so help you God?

THE CANDIDATES: I do.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Be seated. Okay. The next one is Linda Edwards-Duncan.

SENATOR PEELER: Before we make a motion on Mr. Stephens, can we bring him back up just for a second --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Mr. Stephens, if you'd come back up, please?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

SENATOR PEELER: Mr. Stephens, I was looking at your civil disobedience in 1964 demonstration and then a simple assault in '76. You want to expand on that a little?

MR. STEPHENS: Yes, sir. I'd be happy to. Let me say that first of all, there are no city or state records of these charges, but in the interests of full disclosure, I made that a part of my filing to the committee. Back in the early '70s as an assistant principal at a high school, one of my responsibilities was to supervise the custodial staff. I had a night crew. And it came to my attention that one of my female custodians was leaving the premises to affect a liaison with another staff member. I confronted her about this and to extract revenge, I suppose, she reported to her husband that I assaulted her, not sexually, that I physically assaulted her. He then filed charges saying that he came to the school and when he arrived, I had already dragged his wife out into the street in front of the school and was beating her. Obviously, the charges were dismissed because there was no credence to them.

SENATOR PEELER: So there's no record of this. You just --

MR. STEPHENS: Yes, sir. I provided you with the details. But there are no records on file of that incident.

SENATOR PEELER: And you haven't had any problems since then?

MR. STEPHENS: Oh, oh, I've had any number of notable positions since then.

SENATOR PEELER: Thank you. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, sir.

MR. STEPHENS: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. The next person will be Linda Edwards-Duncan. Ms. Duncan.

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Good morning. How are you today?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: I'm doing well.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Ms. Edwards-Duncan, Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: No, sir. I do not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: Yes, sir. I will.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: No. I do not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: No. There are none.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you. Why do you want to serve on South Carolina State?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: First, I would like to thank you for considering my personal situation and I would also like to thank you for all that you do for our state. I also express my condolences in the loss of Representative Phillips. I am Linda Edwards-Duncan, an educator in the public school system of Cherokee County for nearly -- well over three decades. I am seeking reelection to 5th District, Seat 5 of the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees. As a trustee, I have honed my skills through training, publications, and membership in the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. I have proudly served my alma mater from 2004 to 2005 in an unexpired term, and was reelected in 2005 for a full term. In these nearly five years, South Carolina State has made many exceptional accomplishments. We have made critical assessments of ourselves and the service we render as a Board and builders of the future. These assessments have been invaluable and increasing our effectiveness and efficiency. The future holds even more promise as we continue to position ourselves for sustained growth and development in academics, finances, capital improvement, and student services. Yes, we are faced with many challenges that we have great concerns for and for our future. But there is a supreme promise that trouble that does not last always. And in that, I put my faith, hope, and trust. The community and the state stands to benefit as we look for ways to improve, offer more to our students, to allow our faculty to conduct much needed research

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

all to meet the ever growing demand for restructure and change in our state and nation. My commitment to the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees has been demonstrated through my contributions, my attendance to committee and Board meetings, as well as to many local and state university events. I believe in this institution. It gave me my foundation. I greatly desire the opportunity to continue our forward momentum to take more projects off the back burner to full implementation, and to support the transition of our new president. I want to turn our challenges into growth and progress. Thank you again for this opportunity.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you. Any members of the Board have any questions?

SENATOR PEELER: She is from Gaffney?

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: If you're from Gaffney, that's a good recommendation.

SENATOR PEELER: Enough said.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you.

MS. EDWARDS-DUNCAN: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Appreciate it. The next person. We'll just go down in order now. The next person being Maurice Washington, 6th District, Seat 6.

MR. WASHINGTON: Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Good morning, sir.

MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you for --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Let me ask a few questions.

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: First we'll do some housekeeping. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir. I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir. I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you. And tell the commission why you wish to serve.

MR. WASHINGTON: Well, thank you, commissioners, for allowing this public forum. I'm greatly appreciative. This is my third appearance before this very distinguished body. Seven and a half years ago, I stood before you asking for a first shot at serving on South Carolina State University Board of Trustees. You gave me that shot. Four years later, I returned and asked for a second term, and you gave me that second opportunity. As a graduate of South Carolina State -- my wife is also a graduate of South Carolina State, I serve SC State very diligently as a student leader serving two terms as president of the student government association, six years as chairman of the Board of Trustees, in fact, shortly elected chairman after ten months of service. I have given my all as a student, as an alumnus, and as a trustee of South Carolina State. I've worked hard. I've never missed a single board meeting in my entire tenure as a member of the board of trustees. I've worked to secure resources. I worked to partner with other institutions and private sector on economic development initiatives for the state and the university. And we have some new challenges. Challenges that are different from the ones we faced just a short time ago. I believe that I can continue to impact in a positive way the future of South Carolina State, the future of our students and the future of our constituents. And I very much appreciate again, this opportunity to come before you and make the case as to why I should return.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members of the Board have any questions? Mr. Washington, let me ask you one just for information. Are you currently involved in any of the lawsuits against the university?

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, I am, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any other Board members?

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, we are, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Tell me the nature of that lawsuit and what it involves.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MR. WASHINGTON: One involved the non-renewal of a former president's contract and this same individual is also suing the university, so I would imagine collectively, as a governing body, I would be involved in that lawsuit there as well.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Did you bring the lawsuit?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir. The former president brought the lawsuit against the university and certain members of the Board of Trustees.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. So he's suing the Board and you as a member along with the Board. You're not a part of -- a party to suing the university?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, I'm not. No. Now he is suing the university and I believe five or six members of the Board of Trustees who participated in the non-renewal of his contract. If I may --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes.

MR. WASHINGTON: -- Mr. Chairman, when I stood before this body seven and a half years ago, the issues were accreditation issues, student retention and graduation rate, but more importantly, fiscal issues. I pledged as a candidate to work diligently to correct the problems that concern not just the members of the General Assembly, but also, the -- our alumni, the business community, the citizens of the state. And as one of my colleagues mentioned in her opening statement, we have done exactly what you charged us to do. We've corrected the financial deficiencies at South Carolina State University. We have held those who should be held accountable for excellence in education. We have held true to our principle duty and responsibility. That is teaching and learning. We've expanded the footprint of South Carolina State by almost four square miles, including picking up additional properties in Charleston City through a memorandum of understanding with the DOT and the City of Charleston. We have forged incredible business partnerships with SCRA, the World Trade Center. Just recently, we started discussions with the South Carolina Maritime Association, the divide in the I-95 corridor developments. So we have done remarkable things. We have conducted academic audits, HR audits to ensure that academically, we're teaching what corporate America is looking for in today's graduates. We have done the HR audit to weed out. We were the only institution in '07/'08 for the year not to

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

raise tuition on the backs of our students and their strapped households. And I believe as we move forward to face new challenges, having lost about \$8 million recently in new budget cuts, I believe that the wrong thing to do is to return to raising tuition on the backs of these students. I think we need to think more creatively, look more critically, and hold the line as we govern ourselves through these very, very difficult financial times.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Washington.

MR. WASHINGTON: Thank you, sir.

(Representative Littlejohn enters the room.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: We have just joining us Representative Lanny Littlejohn.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Chairman, I want to apologize for being late.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: That's all right.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Things come up --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Well, I understand that.

SENATOR PEELER: Chairman, as you well know, I've got a ten o'clock meeting that I must attend. If it pleases the committee, I'd like to leave you my proxy with any and all matters that come before the committee.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

SENATOR ALEXANDER: Mr. Chairman, at some point, I'm going to have to leave as well, and I would also like the record to reflect that.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you. Senator from Gaffney, if you'd like to since we have the people -- more members here, we could go ahead at this time before we take up the next thing and make the officers for the next year.

SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Is that going to be okay with you?

SENATOR PEELER: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: With that said, we will now elect the officers for next year. Do we have any motions?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, I have a motion. I'd like to elect Jake Knotts, which is you, as Chairman of this committee.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

SENATOR PEELER: I move the nomination be closed and Senator Knotts elected by acclamation.

THE COMMITTEE: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: All right. Let it be reflected that the nomination be closed and Jake Knotts has been elected by acclamation. Vice Chair, do we have any nominations?

SENATOR PEELER: Well, I will choose Representative Brady for being absent. I will present Representative Joan Brady be elected Vice Chairman.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

SENATOR ALEXANDER: I would move that the nominations be closed and Representative Brady be --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Well the motion is seconded. The nominations have been closed to elect Joan Brady -- Representative Joan Brady the Vice Chair. At this time, all in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. That's what happens when you're absent.

SENATOR PEELER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, sir.

(Senator Peeler exits the room.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: The next person on the list is the -- Patricia Lott -- Ms. Patricia Lott.

MS. LOTT: Morning.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Ms. Lott. I have a few questions to ask you -- housekeeping questions. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MS. LOTT: No, I do not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MS. LOTT: Yes, I would, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MS. LOTT: No. Only one thing at present. I am the national alumni president, but my term would end at the same time that I would be appointed.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

MS. LOTT: Should I be.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MS. LOTT: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Ms. Lott, if you would, tell the commission how you -- why you would like to serve on the Board.

MS. LOTT: Sure. Chairman Knotts, other members of this committee. First, good morning to all of you. Who is Patricia Brown Lott and why is she seeking Seat No. 6 on the Board of Trustees of South Carolina State University. I am a 1963 and 1979 graduate of South Carolina State. I have two children. Both of them are also graduates. And truly, as our alma mater states, I am a loyal daughter. I have been an active member of our national alumni association for over 30 years, and have held positions on the local level as secretary, treasurer, president, and on the national level as first vice president, and as I stated earlier, I am currently the president. As a loyal daughter of my alma mater, I have served -- and records will indicate -- on numerous committees over the years. Records will also indicate that I give back financially each year to our scholarship guild. I am a 25-year season ticket holder, a member of the state club, just to name a few. And I have been an ex-officio member of the Board for the last three and a half years. With these experiences, my knowledge of the university and its constituents, and my relationship with alumni, I feel all make me uniquely qualified to serve as a regular voting member of the South Carolina State University national -- Board of Trustees -- sorry, South Carolina State University Board of Trustees. Also, as a veteran educator, I am very knowledgeable of educational trends and best practices. My past experience as a secondary principle gives me a road of knowledge to the responsibilities that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools require as related to governance. To serve as a regular voting member of the Board of Trustees would be an honor and another way which I can continue to give back to my alma mater, singing its praises, and rally to its

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

call. This is my personal testimony as to why I feel qualified and wish to serve my alma mater.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you very much. Any members of the Board of commission have a question?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. LOTT: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Let me ask the Board something. Would you rather do them by seat or would you rather do them by the whole board itself as we do the screening?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: As we get through with them.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: As we get through with the entire list?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: With the ones voting for SC State.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All right. The next person on the list would be At-large, Seat 8, Ms. Shirley Martin. Ms. Martin. Shirley Portee Martin.

MS. DERRICK: She called to say that she'd be running late.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. We'll go back to her. Okay. Mr. Bill Goodwin, Jr. How are you doing Mr. Goodwin?

MR. GOODWIN: Fine.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Let me ask you a few questions. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. GOODWIN: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. GOODWIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. GOODWIN: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. GOODWIN: No, sir.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: And tell the Board why you would like to serve?

MR. GOODWIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you members of the committee. Thank you for your service. I'm an alumnus of this university and for the past hundred plus years, South Carolina State has provided an excellent education, a great working environment and great citizens for the state of South Carolina and for our great nation. For -- over twenty years ago, I graduated and it, you know, it gave so much to me. It's uniquely woven into the fiber of who I am. And so I think as we embark on these trying days ahead, we need board members who are going to be fiscally responsible. I think we need board members who are going to work together harmoniously to provide our students, and our faculty, and our supporters, and our fine citizens of the state, a university that we can be proud of. I think that South Carolina State has presented promise over 100 years of service to all the citizens of South Carolina. And what happens at South Carolina State not only affects alumni or friends of South Carolina State, but I think it affects all the citizens of South Carolina. We need to be proud of our university. I think we need to have board members who present a professional business-like manner. I think we need to have board members who have a lot of business ethics. I think in business, through my experiences on different boards and committees, working together and solving a problem can somehow create the leadership style that all our students and faculty can rally around. Working together is important, you know. I want to be a part of South Carolina State's Board because I've been sitting on the sideline for twenty years and I don't want to complain about what's going on at the university anymore. I want to become a part of it and make a difference. So thank you for this opportunity for me to be heard today.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you. Are there any questions from any Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Goodwin.

MR. GOODWIN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: The next person is James Hampton. Mr. Hampton, do you have any health-related problems that the

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. HAMPTON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. HAMPTON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. HAMPTON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. HAMPTON: I do, sir. But if I'm elected to the Board, I will resign that position.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Tell us what that is.

MR. HAMPTON: Currently, I am a town councilman for the City of Lincolnville.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. And you would resign if you were elected?

MR. HAMPTON: Yes, sir. I would. I have been a councilman for 24 years for the City of Lincolnville and I have been retired from the Air Force, from the school system, and I've chosen that now is the time for me to look for additional challenges and provide additional services.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hampton. Tell us why you want to serve on the Board.

MR. HAMPTON: Chairperson Knotts, committee, protocol already been established. I thank you all for giving me this opportunity to come before you today. I wish to serve as the member of the Board of Trustees for the South Carolina State University because I realize that I have been blessed with great opportunities. And after having taken advantage of those opportunities, from what my mother and father taught me years ago about respect, good values, and also making sure that I knew that education was very important. Not so much that I really thought that that was everything that was going at the time, but they made -- they drilled that into me so. As I took advantage of those opportunities to get a good education, to learn to

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

serve and to give back, I have chosen that now is the time for me to provide that service. I also realize that I didn't get to where I am today because I was just so good and everything was just laid out for me. It was because other people did some things for me. Some people helped me. So having had an opportunity to serve in the military for 23 years and learn leadership service and also obtain a good education, I have chosen that now is the time for me to give something back. And having given back as a principal of a high school, town councilman for the City of Lincolnville, also, performing many services throughout mentioning. While as a principal of a high school, I directed students to the various different colleges. I also had an opportunity to visit South Carolina State, Clemson, other schools in order to see how those students were doing. And now, I feel that it's another opportunity for me to participate in helping the Board of Trustees at this South Carolina State University working as a team, to do what is necessary to make sure that this university continues on the path that it has for the last 113 years. I know that, again, as I said to you earlier, all that I have accomplished in my life was not because I did it all by myself. Someone helped me. So I have chosen to give something back and that is the reason why I feel that I am fully qualified to participate. I know that one person cannot do a job by themselves. But I've learned to work as a team, whether we're with the military and getting jobs done, which were very difficult, it's not all about one person, it's about a team and a mission. I've learned that at a high school, you don't get a job there done by yourself. It is a collaboration of the students, the teachers, the parents, and the staff. And I also learned that as a city, it takes the entire town council, the citizens, and everyone else in order to get the job done. And at South Carolina State University, it would take a dedicated team to continue the progress that this outstanding university has provided for all these years. I also know that because my wife, my daughter, my son, and about ten or fifteen other of my family members graduated from the university -- South Carolina State University, that the time that I've spent there, that I can be a contributor. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any member of the commission have a question?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you. Coming today, the next person will be Matthew Richardson.

MR. RICHARDSON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you. Got a few housecleaning questions. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. RICHARDSON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. RICHARDSON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. RICHARDSON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. RICHARDSON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you for coming today and tell us why you want to serve on the Board.

MR. RICHARDSON: We all benefit from higher education in this state and we grow stronger when that opportunity to learn and earn a degree is available to all our children. South Carolina State University is essential to our collective future, especially for our economic growth to be universally realized. Every educational institution needs trustees who understand their role of setting policy and not interfering with the day-to-day operations. I want to use my education from Ball Public Schools, Duke University, and the University of South Carolina School of Law and my experiences and contacts as an attorney, a businessman, and a father to serve the best interests of South Carolina State University and this entire state. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members of the Board have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, sir.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MR. RICHARDSON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: We now have Ms. Shirley Martin, I believe she just came in.

MS. MARTIN: Yes. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Good morning.

MS. MARTIN: First, I'd like to apologize. I somehow got caught in the wrong traffic --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: That's fine.

MS. MARTIN: -- each time I come in this direction.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MS. MARTIN: No, sir, I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MS. MARTIN: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MS. MARTIN: No, I do not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. If you would, since you came in late and were not sworn in before with all the other candidates, would you raise your right hand?

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to this commission, so help you God?

MS. MARTIN: I do.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Tell us why you would like to serve. I believe you're on the Board now?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, sir. I've been on the Board for two years. I feel very fortunate to have had a two year tenure with the Board. The

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

thing that excites me most about South Carolina State University is that it's a university that provides social mobility. More than 80 percent of our students are first generation college students. When I look at the unemployment rates and the other concerns that we have here in the state of South Carolina, I know to combat those kinds of issues, we've got to increase the employability skills of our citizens. I think South Carolina State is doing a phenomenal job in that direction. More than 80 percent of our students that graduate from the university stay in South Carolina. I think it's incumbent upon us as Trustees of the Board that oversees an institution's operation, to see to it that we can train our next set of leaders and our employees in the state so that we can move the unemployment rate from an all time high to an all time low. I see that as one of the responsibilities of South Carolina State University. I think if I had to celebrate anything that's happened in the last two years that excites me most about having been on this Board and why I'm asking to continue in that role, is because I think we've done an awesome job with working in the direction of improving the academy, the educational institution at the university by providing the best possible opportunities for our students. We're looking at the programs that we're offering and saying, "Is this what we need to offer our kids? Are the educational opportunities in South Carolina available for these degrees?" And we've spent a lot of time and we continue to spend time trying to make sure the university is a good match for the needs of South Carolina.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any members have a questions for Ms. Martin?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Ms. Martin, since you're on the Board already, what's your feeling on increasing enrollment and tuition in the future?

MS. MARTIN: The cost of higher education's a major concern for us. I think we've got to be very creative in how we deal with that, especially at South Carolina State University, since a very large percentage of our students are first generation college, which means of course, that they don't have the financial know-how or the financial power to support their educational needs. So we've got to find a creative way -- we've got to look at our programs and decide what's needed and what's not needed. And we've got to make those very difficult decisions as to what will best fit the needs of not only

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

the students, but their future growth in the state of South Carolina, so that's very important to us.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: I don't know if you answered my question or not about how you feel on a future increase in enrollment at SC State?

MS. MARTIN: Well we're at 4,000 plus students. I think increasing enrollment has to be the direct result of offering the kinds of programs that offer opportunities for those programs. To increase enrollment, to increase revenue, I think, is the wrong way to do it. To increase enrollment because there's a need and we can fit that need, then I'm all in favor of it.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: And the tuition?

MS. MARTIN: And the tuition?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you in favor of holding the line on that or increasing it?

MS. MARTIN: I'd love for it not to increase because, as I said earlier, the kind of -- the populations that we serve, but I also know that we're going to have to look at the financial situation and decide how best -- how are we going to continue to operate this institution as funds continue to dwindle and shrink?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any other member have a question? Ms. Martin, since it has been brought up, you're serving presently on the Board now, right?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: What is your position on Board members charging per diem and mileage to go to football games and has that been a practice and will that continue to be a practice?

MS. MARTIN: I think that's an issue. You have to look at Board policy and see how the Board has, you know, what does the policy dictate. When they're going to these events to support the cause of the university, I think it's acceptable. When you're going to these events to head fund-raising drives, to meet with alumni in those cities and do those kinds of things, I can see it as a function of the Board. If you're just going to be entertained at a football game, that's totally different. What I see with Board members at South Carolina State is that when they go to football games, they go in on Friday, they hold major fundraisers on Friday evening, they meet with alumni to secure more support for the university. And in turn, this is

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

just a plus, an added bonus to the university. If it's just attend the football game, I very much oppose it. If it's to make -- raise funds and garner support for the university, I think those are things Board members should be actively engaged in.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Are you familiar with the Classic that's held at Williams Brice Stadium?

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Have you ever asked for or received any per diem to come to that classic?

MS. MARTIN: No, sir. I wouldn't have needed it. I live in Goose Creek.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Do you know of any other Board members that have asked for per diem to come to that classic?

MS. MARTIN: Because that's not shared with us individually -- each person does their thing differently. They -- that's handled through a different department, I would not know. I've read media coverage of -- negative coverage of things of that sort, but to say that I know that, no, sir, I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Are you aware that other boards and commissions in this state do not receive any per diem to go to football games?

MS. MARTIN: No, I'm not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: And at looking at that, I checked other boards from the other college boards and that is something that like Clemson, University of South Carolina, Citadel, those college boards, they don't charge for per diem. And I looked at some of the people at South Carolina State and they were charging mileage and per diem to come to a football game and I didn't see anything else other than just coming to the football game that I was made aware of that they were doing. So as a new Board member, would you be willing to look into that and to correct that problem?

MS. MARTIN: I would have no problems with not -- discontinuing the per diem. I don't think we have any members on that Board that would have to have a per diem or mileage to attend a game. But as I said earlier, every game that I have attended, that other Board members have attended, they've all been involved in other activities, not just attending a football game. I and myself personally, I attended a game in central Florida, but I went down on Friday and was starting a \$1,000 club, which we then made our contributions

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

before any alumni did. So I don't see where Board members are in need of the funds, because Board members are contributing financially at much higher levels than what those per diems are. Also, on Sunday of that week, we met with alumni at their offices to secure support for the university. So I didn't see that as a weekend of a football game. I saw that as a weekend of garnering support for the university. Which is something that I do think that we're going to have to a lot more of at South Carolina State because we've got alumni that are doing tremendous things all over the country. But we've got to get those people into our support bracket for South Carolina State.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I just think that you need to look at that because of the fact of the situation we're in with money and taxes coming to the college, should be going to the college, and I think you need to look at the practice. And the Board needs to look at that practice since other universities don't take up the taxpayer's funds to go to the ball games. Okay?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other member?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Martin. And I'd like to call Mr. Washington back up to ask him the same question in all fairness.

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I'd like to ask you that a while ago. Are you aware of Board members that charge per diem to go to football games?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: No, sir? You've never done it?

MR. WASHINGTON: No. No, no. I don't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

MR. WASHINGTON: Mr. Chairman, I --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Would you be willing to look at that policy?

MR. WASHINGTON: Absolutely, it is as Dr. Martin said earlier, very much so inappropriate. It's not a practice that I'm aware of. As I said earlier, I served six years as chairman and I had other responsibilities outside of the game itself and still didn't charge a

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

per diem to attend the game or to carry out or participate in the outside functions of the game.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: As Chairman of the Board, do you sign off on -- or did you sign off on all per diem requests and mileage requests?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You did not?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, sir. It's handled by the administration.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All right. Any other members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Washington.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, I have a formal inquiry about the statement of economic interests. Are things like this supposed to be listed on that or do we know? Are they supposed to be listed as income, I guess, on the statement of economic interests?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

MR. WASHINGTON: Was that a question for me?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: No, sir. Just stating that in the future that any of these per diems or mileage need to be listed on your economic interest form that you have to file. For the Board's information, I received this last year and I looked into it and there was quite a bit of money by some Board members that were being used for airplane travel, per diem, even mileage to and from Orangeburg to Columbia and hotels for the weekend, and stuff like that to attend a football game. And checked with the other colleges and boards and Clemson sent me a letter that they do not do it, never have done it. University says it -- their money comes out of the alumni -- not the alumni, but the --

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Foundation.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: -- foundation -- foundation and stuff of that nature.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, were they listed on the statement of economic interests, or is that were you got your information from?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: No, sir. I got my information from a letter that was sent to me by a concerned person down in Orangeburg that is an alumni of South Carolina State.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

MR. WASHINGTON: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir.

MR. WASHINGTON: May I please?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yeah.

MR. WASHINGTON: Because you -- you've expanded a little bit.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Step back up to the mic.

MR. WASHINGTON: When I say --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: State your name.

MR. WASHINGTON: Maurice Washington. When I say, "There aren't any per diem," I'm referring specifically to mileage reimbursement. I am aware of hotel accommodations. However, reimbursement for hotel stays, I don't sign off on them. That's administrative process. If there is an early morning function that Saturday morning, Trustees may come in the night before to be in place on time. Homecoming activities, fundraiser events, commencement ceremonies, things of that nature, we do pay for those who are participating. The program, we pay for hotel accommodations, but I'm not familiar with the mileage piece and things of that nature.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Airline tickets and stuff like that?

MR. WASHINGTON: Airline tickets, that's a bit excessive. I have participated in airline purchases, but we traveled to Washington, D. C., the President, and myself, and other Trustees to sign a \$42 million dollar dormitory development.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: We're talking about football games.

MR. WASHINGTON: No. No. No. Football games, I -- no, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I understand going to Washington to seek money --

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: -- and finance.

MR. WASHINGTON: Yes, sir. Football game, no sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Athletic events?

MR. WASHINGTON: No, not to my knowledge, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, sir. We have not --

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, if I could --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: -- just say one thing, to be fair, we don't put a throw lightning at just one school. Are we sure that other schools aren't doing the same?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I got letter from Clemson and I got a letter from the university back last year to find out about it, and we were looking at budgets at that time, and that's how I came about it.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Those schools were not doing it?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Other schools were not doing it. If they were doing it, it was coming out of a fund other than taxpayer's.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: We have completed the South Carolina State --

MS. DERRICK: We have Jonathan Pinson.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Oh, that's right. Excuse me. We've got one more group. At-large, Seat 10. Jonathan Pinson. Mr. Pinson, do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. PINSON: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. PINSON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. PINSON: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. PINSON: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Mr. Pinson, if you would, tell the Board why you wish to serve.

MR. PINSON: Thank you. I've had the honor of serving four years on the Board, and excuse me, I've got something drainage going this morning, and look forward to another four years. The university is moving forward. We've done a lot of great things. The first year -- first term I served on a year, I was able to secure one of the largest corporate gifts to the university from Wachovia, played a pivotal

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

role in landing the presidential debate at the university. And one of the things that we done. We had Semaphore come in and do a study to find what's the image of South Carolina State across the state of South Carolina. And one of the things that we found out was that our image dwindles the farther we get away from the university. So once you get to the upstate, I mean, Greenville, there's less media coverage, there's less knowledge about what's taking place at the university. And one of the things that I've worked hard to do is to make sure that we keep the university in the forefront of some of the major corporations in the upstate: BMW, Michelin, GE, Fluor Daniel, and try to make sure that we connect the university with those corporations. As we're going through these economic hard times here in the state of South Carolina. And there was an article in the USA Today paper just recently that printed the HBCU is having a harder time through these economic hard times at most universities. And the reason being is that our foundations are smaller than a lot of universities. We don't have the funds that's been secured over the years that we can tap into to help through economic hard times. So one of the things that we're focusing on now, is looking at how we raise funds and how we connect with corporations and our alumni. And those are some of the things that we know going forward. It's going to be pivotal for South Carolina State and every university to stay abreast and stay competitive in this environment and look at what programs we're offering. One of the things that we've been blessed with is that we have a nuclear engineering program. And as we know, there are several nuclear plants that's being launched across the nation. I've been in talks with SCANA, Duke Power and some other things about how do we connect with the university, and get our engineers involved, and how can they play a better role in helping up make sure that we stay on the cutting edge of our programs and making sure our students have the jobs that are out there once they graduate. Also, we have a transportation center that we're breaking ground on. And one of my major clients is Federal Express up in Memphis, Tennessee. And I've been in talks with them, too, about how can they get more involved with the university and the talks have been strong because they want to get involved. And they're excited to hear about the transportation center being at an HBCU. So it's those talks and it's those discussions that I feel going forward, we ought to make sure

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

we connect the university with. It is what I've strived to do since I've gotten on the Board and I look forward to another four years of continuing to develop these relationships for the university.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Discussion from any members of the Board or commission? Have any questions? Okay. Mr. Pinson, you heard what I asked the others. Do you have an objection to reviewing that policy and taking action to correct it if it is being abused?

MR. PINSON: No. You know, we saw some of the articles that was in the paper that was written about Board members at South Carolina State and we always strive to make sure that we're in compliance with what's going on in the state. And one of the things that we talked about through economic hardships that, you know, that South Carolina is going through with the budget cuts -- is looking at cutting out the per diem and how can we be more fiscally responsive to help out -- to play our role as a Board and lead the way in cut-backs. So, no.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Pinson. Our next candidate is Carolyn -- Ms. Carolyn Govan.

MS. GOVAN: Good morning. Good morning.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Good morning, Ms. Govan.

MS. GOVAN: Sorry I was late.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Were you sworn earlier with the rest?

MS. GOVAN: No. No, sir. I wasn't.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. If you would raise right hand, please. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth to this commission, so help you God?

MS. GOVAN: So help me God.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you. I have a few questions. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MS. GOVAN: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MS. GOVAN: I can. Yes.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MS. GOVAN: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MS. GOVAN: Not at all.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. If you would, tell us why you want to serve Ms. Govan.

MS. GOVAN: I'm Carolyn Govan, a graduate of South Carolina State Class of '74. I had the honor to be one of the first of our nation to graduate from our fine institution. Over the years, I have participated in various activities that involve with the institution. I believe in South Carolina State as it relates to education. I've worked within the grassroots of education for over 31 years. I've served on a South Carolina Audits Commission for eight years. And I believe a board should be there to set policy. South Carolina State to me is home, although I attend other institution, South Carolina State gave me my beginning. I'm one of those graduate students, the first in the home to graduate from South Carolina State. I promote South Carolina State anywhere I go whether it be in the local Pee Dee area or in other states. South Carolina State to me represents home, represents an image. As a graduate of South Carolina State, I felt, as everyone has, we've been reading some of the information that's gone in the papers. I was concerned about image. I felt that there's some things that were said in the paper may or may not be true. But I feel that it was time to step up to the plate and hopefully give the leadership needed for us to move in the 21st century in a global society. As an educator, I may not have the -- all the tools to meet with all the corporate people, but as an educator, I know that South Carolina State needs the leadership that understands education, understands the student population, and understands that our students who attend South Carolina State are -- a lot of them are from low economical background. But it's that poverty that we need to pull us out -- ourselves out of the poverty that a lot of our students may encounter. I am a student and a product of South Carolina State. I'm a product of South Carolina. I'm proud to be an

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

alumni of South Carolina State. And I would like that opportunity possibly to serve on this Board, please.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members of the board want to have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you very much for coming. At this point, we have finished the South Carolina State Screening and we will have a motion.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Lemeul Stephens, is he -- Lemeul Stephens.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Mr. Stephens was the first candidate.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Oh, okay.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir. We've already heard him.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, I would recommend that SC State Seats 5, 6, 8, and 10 applicants be reported out favorably.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All opposed? Okay. Let me explain to the members. Would all the members of South Carolina State that just got screened please stand. Okay. Let me remind each and every one of you that you are not to -- you have been reported out as favorable, but you are not to accept any Seat or any commitments for vote until the Screening has issued its letter and that will be 48 hours.

MS. DERRICK: Well, it has to be printed in the Journal.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: It has to be printed in the Journal. And at that point in time --

MS. DERRICK: Forty-eight hours later.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Forty-eight hours later, you can seek commitments. Does anybody here not understand that? Because if you violate that, that will disqualify you. Okay. Thank y'all for coming. Appreciate y'all intent to serve. Okay. The next thing we have is the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Remember brevity is always of interest when you have four seats and four counties. Okay. The first person is Stewart Cooner. Let me, for the interest of time, Mr. Stewart Cooner, Mr. Russell Hart, and Mr. Wayne Sims,

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

and Mrs. Elizabeth Thrailkill. If all of y'all will please stand? Okay. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

THE CANDIDATES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Let the record reflect that all candidates answered these questions appropriately. Okay. Mr. Cooner?

MR. COONER: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Tell us why you -- we've already sworn all of them. Let me ask you to tell the Board -- you're an incumbent and seeking reappointment. And tell them why you would like to continue, sir.

MR. COONER: Yes, sir. It has been my honor to serve the students, faculty, administration of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School as a member of its Board of Trustees. In the years that I've served, these past four years, have certainly been momentous. But the years ahead are unprecedented. Times such as these cannot be daunted by the threats of adversity but must be quickened by thoughts of possibilities. That is the approach that Dr. Gray took and it's the tradition that I would like to continue. It would be my privilege to serve the students, faculty, and administration of Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School as a member of its Board of Trustees for a second term.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any Board member have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Cooner. The next is Mr. Russell Hart. Mr. Hart, thank you for coming today. You're an incumbent to seek reappointment. Will you tell the Board why you would like to serve and be reappointed?

MR. HART: Yes, sir. Presently I'm serving there and presently I'm chair of that committee -- of the Board. I've served on that Board for several years. Having spent my entire career in working with the youth of South Carolina and teaching, coaching public school in South Carolina, YMCA work, and Parks and Recreation. I have seen first-hand what Wil Lou Gray program does for our youth of our state. They modify their behavior. They send them back out in the community as an asset rather than a liability. And that's the future of our state and all societies for our youth and I wish to continue to be a part of that program there.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any Board member have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Hart.

MR. HART: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Next is Mr. Wayne Sims.

MR. SIMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. First of all, I'd like to say it's been a privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees. I've served with dignity, integrity, and honesty to the school Wil Lou Gray. First of all, I'd like to just tell you I was a member of foster care review board for almost ten years. I saw the types of children that we work with each and every day in foster care. When I came on board four years ago, I met young men and young women and staff and personnel who were developing those children who have fell in the cracks and who were lost in the state of South Carolina with no hope. I want to continue working these young people and particularly working with Pat Smith and his group of fine staff. I have officiated high school football for forty years. I gave up this past year. Basketball for 37 years and in my spare time, I did baseball for 10 years -- high school. I've always worked with young people. I've never had problems dealing with young people. They just want their problems to be important to us. You know, as an adult, we think children don't have problems. We all have children. Their problems are serious to them just as we have problems that are serious to each of us. I want to continue working. And most of all, I'd like to give thanks to the

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

general assembly for the funding that's been provided to this school. I know it's been a tough year and you've had a tough job, but we want to say thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sims. Any member -- Mr. Sims?

MR. SIMS: Pardon me?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: We just want to -- we're not through yet.

MR. SIMS: I'm sorry. I didn't hear you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Does any Board member have any questions --

MR. SIMS: Oh, okay.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: -- for Mr. Sims?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sims.

MR. SIMS: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Appreciate it. Mrs. Thrailkill. Thank you, Mrs. Thrailkill. If you'll tell the Board why you would like to continue service.

MS. THRAILKILL: I've previously served on the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School Board and it -- and currently, I'm serving as vice chair. I've served several terms and we don't have the question of attending football games and that sort of thing, but I'm always impressed when the times get tough. A lot of people run away from service, but our Board has not. We have a very able leadership of Mr. Pat Smith. He is really shepherding us through some rough times and some not so rough times. I'd like to extend the thanks on behalf of my Board for the continued support. Dr. Gray was a legend in this state for education. She dedicated her life to education and the citizenry of this state. I also believe that we have a place as citizens of this state and in America of taking part in helping give back in some way. Of our service to organizations, to -- we've enjoyed the good things and we need to pass that on. I appreciate our funding. I appreciate your support in coming out and being interested in our school, particularly you, Mr. Knotts. You've been interested in us a long time and we thank you for that. We haven't been forgotten. I'd like to continue service on this Board because we have a place in this state. I want us to keep that place. I see service to boys and girls, having been an educator for thirty-one years and

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

working still with students -- I think I have a place on that Board to help us continue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Is there any Board members? Yes, sir, Representative Littlejohn.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Ms. Thrailkill, I'd just like to publicly thank you and the Board for the job that y'all have done over the last few years. And I think you've come in today and not had an opposition for that is a compliment to the job that you're doing and publicly thank you for the service to the kids of South Carolina.

MS. THRAILKILL: Thank you, Representative Littlejohn, I appreciate that.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any other member? I'd like to say one thing, too, Mrs. Thrailkill. For all the members that just came to offer for reelection. This school in my district, right around the corner from my house, on the property right before -- across from the airport. As a young boy at Airport High School, they offered welding and other courses like that under the Opportunity School for brick laying, welding, plumbing, stuff of this nature, which a lot of the high schools don't offer, but now, they -- their mission has totally changed to help kids in the entire state that have problems getting along in school and getting through school. And they have done a tremendous job. I remember whenever we'd have four seats and we'd have eight or ten people applying and finally we worked it out to where the Board now as you see here today came unopposed. And that tells you are they are doing a good job both in the community and also in the eyes of the citizens of entire state because these kids come from all over South Carolina, and I just want to thank the Board for doing what they're doing.

MS. THRAILKILL: Thank y'all.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir, Representative Mack.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, since this is testimony time. I wanted to also echo my support and my admiration for the school. I've been able -- I'm from Charleston and I, in the past, I've been able to get students in. Not everyone can pull off the type school that you do and the way you do it. So, congratulations.

MS. THRAILKILL: Thank you. I'm sorry Mr. Smith isn't here to hear this. He was unable to come; he's in another meeting. Because

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

he's always very supportive and he usually comes and is in our cheerleader section.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I think he hears it every day from the community out there that --

MS. THRAILKILL: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: -- surrounds the school.

MS. THRAILKILL: He's another reason that we enjoy serving. We don't worry about the things that he's usually worried about. We just make policy. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any other member?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you very much. We have now completed the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School. Do I hear a motion?

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Chairman, I move we'll vote the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School out favorably.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: That's Stewart Cooner, Russell Hart, Wayne Sims, and Elizabeth Thrailkill. Do I hear a second?

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any discussion? All in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: All opposed? Thank y'all for coming and I'd must remind if all of y'all would please stand? Even though you're unopposed, you're not to seek commitment until it is printed in the Journal and in 48 hours afterwards.

THE CANDIDATES: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you very much. I appreciate you coming. The next is Winthrop University. 1st Congressional District expires 2012. Mr. Timothy Sease. For the Board, on your sheet, this is two different seats. One's a 1st Congressional District, I think expires 2012 and the other one is an At-Large, Seat 9. Mr. Sease, please tell us -- well, first of all we need to do some housecleaning. Will both the candidates please stand? Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

THE CANDIDATES: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

THE CANDIDATES: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Let the record reflect that they all were answered appropriately. Mr. Sease, tell us why you'd like to serve?

MR. SEASE: Well, first of all, thank you, Senator Knotts. I too, was a graduate of Airport High School, so it's interesting to hear you mention Airport. The bottom line is --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I remember.

MR. SEASE: Sir?

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I remember.

MR. SEASE: Yes, sir. The bottom line is: we care deeply about Winthrop. And we've been involved since our graduation back in 1987 from Winthrop University. Worked with the Young Alumni Council. Had an opportunity to serve on the Winthrop Foundation Board. Had an opportunity to serve as President of the Winthrop Alumni Association 2005-2007. We were fortunate enough to attend, on our tab I will mention, the -- probably the greatest sporting event Winthrop was involved in. You may remember we played Notre Dame in Spokane, Washington in the March Madness. Actually won that game. But we care deeply about Winthrop. Winthrop is really -- we'd like to say, kind of a shining -- shining institution up on the hill, up on Rock Hill. But we want to do everything we can to certainly continue the good work that's been done and we appreciate the opportunity hopefully to continue that process.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members of the Board have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MR. SEASE: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Next is Dalton Floyd. Mr. Floyd, tell us why you would like to serve?

MR. FLOYD: I'm currently serving on the Board as an appointee and the by-law at Winthrop prevent any appointee from serving in a leadership capacity at Winthrop. And for that reason, I chose to offer for this At-large Seat. I feel that I have contributed and been a positive influence on the Board to this point and would like to continue to do that. I've also had experience serving on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and I feel that experience working with all the college and universities and also with independent schools, can contribute to my experience in enabling me to help Winthrop.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any members of the Board have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Floyd.

MR. FLOYD: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Mr. Floyd and Mr. Sease. Just before -- could I hear a motion? That is for the Winthrop University.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chair, I move that the people here for Winthrop University Board be passed out as ready.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: That's Mr. Timothy Sease and Mr. Dalton Floyd.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I have a motion to second. Any discussion? All in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: All opposed? Okay. The next on the agenda -- let's go to College of Charleston At-large, Seat 13 expires in 2010. Mr. Daniel Ravenel, do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. RAVENEL: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. RAVENEL: Yes, I would.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. RAVENEL: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. RAVENEL: No, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Tell us why you would like to serve, sir?

MR. RAVENEL: MR. Chairman, I have been involved in higher education first at the College of Charleston in a number of fund raising capacities. Ended up being the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the foundation for the College of Charleston. I then went on to serve eight years at the Commission on Higher Education in South Carolina and ended up being the Vice Chairman of that body. I was appointed by Bobby Harrell to the state -- the South Carolina Higher Education Study Committee and has served as chairman of that. We're getting ready to roll that plan out in the next month or so. I'm very actively involved in higher education and have been since 1986 and I enjoy it very much. I find that it's entirely rewarding. I think there are a number of things that can be done in this state which would enhance the state overall. That can begin with higher education. So I think it's a noble cause. If you measure the three most damning statistics that we can generate in this state, that being health or life expectancy, educational attainment, and personal average income, higher education needs to play a greater role in benefitting our state in those three areas. And I would hope that I would be able to add to the effort of the College of Charleston to serve the entire state of South Carolina.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Does any member of the Board have any questions for Mr. Ravenel?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Ravenel.

MR. RAVENEL: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: The College of Charleston had one applicant. Do I have a motion?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I move that we report out Mr. Ravenel in favor.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I have a motion. Do I have a second?

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any discussion? All in favor of reporting out Mr. Daniel Ravenel, say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Mr. Ravenel, as I stated to the rest of them, until it is printed in the Journal, even though we've reported you out, you're not to seek any commitments, even though you're unopposed until 48 hours after it's been printed in the Journal.

MR. RAVENEL: I understand the rules, Senator.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. RAVENEL: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you for asking to serve. Okay. The next is the Coastal Carolina University. Would the following people please stand: Larry Biddle, Natasha Hanna, Robert Templeton, William Lyes, Wyatt Henderson, Brad Spink, Robert Brown, Wayne George, and William Alford? I am missing someone. No, I'm here. Okay. I see. Okay. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

THE CANDIDATES: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

THE CANDIDATES: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

THE CANDIDATES: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir?

MR. BIDDLE: I may have one. My son --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: State your name, sir.

MR. BIDDLE: Larry Biddle. My son, Marshall's Law Firm has been retained by one of the groups that are talking to Coastal about the Arena. And I've declared that at the Coastal Educational Foundation, also -- center.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. If elected to serve on the Board and you're serving, what would you do in the event that that would become an issue brought before the Board?

MR. BIDDLE: I would refrain from all discussion.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You'd recuse yourself?

MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: And refrain from all discussion?

MR. BIDDLE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Anything else?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: State your name.

MR. ALFORD: My name is Billy Alford or William Alford. I'm in the fire and water restoration business and over a period of a number of years, we have done work for Coastal and I acknowledge that in my statement in all the documents that are prepared for this committee today. And at any time, if anything's come up, I've recused myself from that.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any question from Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Would you -- do you -- will you continue doing work for the Board?

MR. AFFORD: If asked, yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. What would you do in the event of any discussions or anything brought before the Board involving work that you would be bidding on?

MR. ALFORD: I would recuse myself.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You would recuse yourself from voting or would you recuse yourself from any participation of discussion or asking any other members to support you or both? Explain how you would -- excuse me.

MR. ALFORD: I would --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Excuse me just a minute. Excuse me just a minute. Explain to the Board what you mean by recuse yourself? What would you do?

MR. ALFORD: I would not be involved in any discussion, nor would I do anything to influence any member of the Board or any administration or administrator to do any work at Coastal.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: And you place it on the record?

MR. ALFORD: Yes, sir. I have in the past as well.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All right. Any other members of the Board have any questions on that?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any other persons out there have any conflicts of interests?

THE CANDIDATES: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

THE CANDIDATES: No.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Yes, sir?

MR. BIDDLE: Larry Biddle.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Larry Biddle.

MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir. I currently serve as Vice Chairman of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities in Greenville. And if elected, or if appointed, I would resign that position. I also currently serve as Vice Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee on the Coastal Educational Foundation and I would resign that role. And I also currently serve as Chair of the Board of Visitors of the College of Education. I'd resign that role as well.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All right. Any questions from the Board?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank y'all. The first person before us would be Larry Biddle. Mr. Biddle, tell us briefly why you would like to serve on the Coastal Carolina University Board.

MR. BIDDLE: I have a passion for Coastal Carolina University for over four decades. I actually worked there when it was a university campus, so it's been an active role for a long time at CCU. I kind of need to tell you this, I guess, to kind of give you an idea of where I come from. I was not born in the South, but I got here as quick as I could. I was born in Denver and grew up in Sacramento, California. And I was fortunate to be selected by New York University to study at the University of Madrid. I met a blonde southern belle from Converse College in Conway, South Carolina who was a Burroughs. And a few years later, we were married. And after completing a

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

Master's in Spain, I -- we settled in Conway. It wasn't the plan, but plans change as we all know. So, I've been in Horry County --

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You took the long way around, didn't you?

MR. BIDDLE: Yes, sir. Not to mention, my grandmother's from Aberdeen, Scotland and my father was born in Canada. So it took me a long time to get to Horry County, but I made it. But I'm proud of this state. I've advocated for it all over the nation. As a founder of the National Renaissance movement, which started at Conway High School when I was there. But I'm a parent, a linguist, a businessman, and an educator. A lot of people think businessman/educator must be a weirdo, but no it's powerful. Because I believe that our schools are the most important businesses in town. The first family's been very active in the founding of Coastal Carolina continues to be active. All the family companies. The Burroughs Company, where I'm president, the J. Cox Company, where I'm president, the Rosen Chaffin Company where I serve on the Board of Directors and also Snow Hill and the Burroughs Foundation keeps very active in this university because they know as we all know that it plays a crucial role. I believe that the traditions of Coastal Carolina University are critical for us to keep in mind as we go forward just completing our 50th year. I'm in total agreement with our new president about integrity on our campus and about the power of excellence for our stakeholders, not just a few, but all stakeholders. Coastal plays a major economic role in our community and in our state. And I will assist in any way possible to continue that progress. I believe as we look at the dire economic times we face, not only in South Carolina, but across the country, that we really don't have a money problem, we have an idea problem. And I believe that the public-private partnerships that we've developed in our community will continue to help Coastal grow, and improve, and meet the needs not only of our citizens of the state, but around the world. And I look forward to serving.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, sir. Any questions from members of the Board?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Biddle.

MR. BIDDLE: Thank you, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Natasha Hanna. Ms. Hanna, if you would briefly tell us why you would like to serve.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MS. HANNA: Yes, sir. Thank you. There's but one simple reason as to why I want to serve as a Board of Trustee member for Coastal Carolina and that's simply because I love my school. I graduated from Coastal in 1994. My husband's a 1992 graduate. And Coastal gave me a wonderful opportunity. I am just -- I do not come from an affluent family. I'm just a little country bumpkin from Radford, Virginia. And Coastal laid the foundation for me to make me what I am today. I'm a very successful lawyer down in Horry County. And I work for one of the finest firms there is in the state and that's Hearn, Brittain & Martin. And I would not have been able to that opportunity had I not gone to Coastal and obtained the education and the wonderful friendships and values that I obtained there. I'm aware of the various issues that Coastal is facing today. And there have been a multitude of issues in the last couple of years but under the fine leadership that they have established now, President DeCenzo and Eddie Dower, who's actually one of my former professors who gave me an opportunity to go to the United States Supreme Court. I've been involved in Coastal since 1994 in one form or fashion or another. I'm always at the sporting events. We attend the theater events as well as I serve on the Coastal Legacy Advisory Council. In short, I just simply love my school. I want to get involved in a leadership capacity to serve my school and to serve the community. I want to roll up my sleeves, get in the trenches, and simply make a difference and help Coastal with the issues that it faces. I have a desire and the ability, as well as the time necessary to give full devotion to the goals that Coastal has right now. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any questions from any of the Board members? Yes, sir, Representative Lanny Littlejohn.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Ms. Hanna, I think you said Coastal has a high number of out-of-state students. What are your feelings on having a high number of students coming from out of state?

MS. HANNA: I'm glad you asked me that question, Representative Littlejohn. There's actually 54 percent out-of-state students at Coastal and I encourage it for a number of reasons. When I was there at Coastal in 1994, a good portion of the students and the friends that I met did come from other states. I think that's a wonderful thing because for a variety of reasons, they pay more in

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

tuition and it increases our tuition. But more importantly, they plant their roots. I mean, I come from Virginia and I planted my roots in Horry County and I'm never going to leave.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are we just -- excuse me. Are we displacing any South Carolina students that want to come?

MS. HANNA: No, sir. I don't think so, because we have so many other fine institutions in the state --

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: No. I didn't ask you that. We have other fine institutions, but are we displacing any South Carolina students?

MS. HANNA: No, sir. Not that I'm aware of.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: That's based on the enrollment standards there. I guess the enrollment standards are the same for South Carolina students as they are for out-of-state students?

MS. HANNA: Yes, sir. I've actually had discussions with some of the members at Coastal that make those types of decisions. And that is one of the questions that I posed. And the response that I got from the powers that be that actually are involved in making those decisions is it does not displace the South Carolina students who want to come to Coastal.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any other members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Ms. Hanna?

MS. HANNA: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You answered your questionnaire at age 17 you had a dispute with a friend over a sweater?

MS. HANNA: Yes, sir. I did.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. And how was that resolved?

MS. HANNA: That was completely dismissed, Your Honor. In the interests of full disclosure, I had put that down on my statement as well as anything else where that question has ever been quarried, have I ever been in any trouble. And at the foolish young age of 17, I got in a silly little dispute with a girl over a pink sweater. And fortunately, those charges were dismissed and by the grace of God, it has never ever stopped me from doing anything that I set out to do.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Okay. Thank you very much.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MS. HANNA: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Next is Robert Templeton for Seat 4, District 2. Mr. Templeton, state to the Board why you would like to serve briefly.

MR. TEMPLETON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a brief prepared statement. Thank you both again for the opportunity to come before you and present my candidacy for the Board of Trustees at Coastal Carolina University. I am honored to have served and I'm even more honored to be given consideration for this appointment again. Once again, my name is Robert Templeton and I am a resident of Orangeburg County. As a lifelong South Carolinian, I believe our state has much to be proud of and I am grateful for the opportunity to do my small part to serve our state. Throughout my life, I have been actively involved in civic life in my community and I believe strongly, that it is the obligation of every citizen to volunteer his or her time and energy to make our communities and state a better place to live and raise a family. And looking for ways to stay involved with this belief, I believe my continued role as a Trustee will help in this endeavor. Education at all levels is a critically important part of the life of our state and economy. When I initially researched this position, I discovered that Coastal Carolina had been growing steadily and was serving more than 8,000 students. This growth rate puts Coastal Carolina University well on its way to becoming the third largest college in the state. While Coastal Carolina University primarily serves the low country area in our Horry County, the university deserves to have strong representation from across the state. In reapplying for this position, I believe my current experience as a Trustee for Coastal Carolina University, along with my experience and training as a financial planner is a good match for Coastal Carolina University. All of our state's colleges and universities are tremendous assets which help our economy and improve our quality of life in which every citizen has an interests. In economic times like these, Coastal Carolina University should practice fiscal restraint. The Board must be very careful that tax dollars are spent carefully and with an eye towards getting the best value. Furthermore, I believe that the most important thing is transparency so that there can never be any question about how the institution is functioning as an agent of the people of our state. I'm excited about

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

Coastal Carolina University. I'm excited that we have a strong academic institution at the beach where our sons and daughters can receive a quality education. I am excited about Coastal Carolina University's future, a future filled with growth and opportunity. Finally, I'm excited to once again, stand before and present my candidacy. Coastal Carolina University needs board members who will make every effort to ensure that its future potential becomes reality. If elected by the legislature, or rather, if appointed by the legislature, I will continue to make that effort. And I will entertain any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members have any?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Templeton. Next is Mr. William Lyles.

MR. LYLES: I'm an original member of the Board of Trustees serving since 1993 when Coastal became an independent university. I served as an officer, I served as a committee chair over the years and I wish to continue to offer my services, my time, my experience and financial support of the university.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any members have any questions?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Lyles. Mr. Wayne Henderson.

MR. HENDERSON: Wyatt.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Wyatt Henderson. Excuse me. Tell me sir why you would like to serve, Mr. Henderson.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, sir. Like you say, my name is Wyatt Henderson. I'm a resident of Greenville County. I've been a resident of South Carolina all my life. I'm grateful for this opportunity to do my part to serve our great state. When I became aware of this opportunity, I was immediately interested both because of my interest in public service and my love for my school. As a graduate of Coastal with a degree in Business Administration, I commend Coastal success and have remained active with the school each year since graduation. Currently, I serve on the board of advisors for the Wall College of Business at Coastal. And fortunately, I've had -- I've been able to give back to the school through a scholarship that I established under my late granddaughter's name that helps a rising -- a coming senior. 2002, I

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

was named one of the alumni of the year at Coastal Carolina, and I believe that my continued involvement with Coastal, my professional experience, and my willingness to do what I think is the best for the school has earned me the support of Dr. Danny DeCenzo, President of Coastal, and Henry Lowenstein, the Dean of the Wall College of Business. As I want to apply for this position, I believe my with my experience and training as an accountant will be a good match for Coastal, because currently there are no certified public accountants on the Board at Coastal. And we're all aware of the serious condition of our global economy. It is also apparent that all aspects of our state government are facing serious budget cuts. In the past few years, Coastal, ourself -- we have faced some difficult challenges regarding the school's finances and some staffing issues. I don't pretend to fully be informed about all the details of these issues, but I am confident in my professional training and business experience would help me make a positive contribution to my school. Finally, I just want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to meet with you and present my candidacy. And I just want you to know if I'm selected by the legislature for this important position, that I assure you, I will do everything I can to bring credit to our state.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any questions from Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you Mr. Henderson. Next is Brad Spink. Mr. Brad Spink.

MR. SPINK: And I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you this morning. I'm a lifelong resident of South Carolina. And the majority of that time has been spent in the upstate in Greenville and Spartanburg. I am a 2001 graduate of Wofford College. I have become more involved in Coastal Carolina -- watching Coastal Carolina as it has progressed, improved facilities, grown as a school, and that has been my interest with the school. I come from a family of higher education. I have a mother that spent 26 years teaching school, grandmother that was a retired school teacher as well. Higher education has always been an important emphasis in this family and I've continued that as well. The number one reason that I want to serve is first of all, to be able to serve my state. I've been looking for an opportunity to get involved in serving my state and when this opportunity came across my desk, I felt that I would be

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

able to serve and do well in this capacity. I feel that it's important to use state money appropriately. I feel that accountability should be held to those that are making the decisions. Also feel that I would be able to relate well with the student body and helping make decisions that would give them the best education possible. Thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any questions for any members? Yes, sir, Representative Littlejohn.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Mr. Spink, I noticed you are a young man. You think that would contribute to bringing change at Coastal Carolina?

MR. SPINK: I think it could. I think my perspective, my mind set, the way that I see things, being able to relate well to the students. I think that I would be able to bring a different perspective to the committee. Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Anyone else?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, Mr. Spink.

MR. SPINK: Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Next is Mr. Robert Brown. Mr. Brown tell us briefly why you are qualified and why you wish to serve.

MR. BROWN: I'm asking to serve because I've been on the Board of Trustees at Coastal since 1993. I was one of the first group of trustees that was elected. We served by all means and did everything we could to make Coastal one of the most prosperous and industrial schools there is. We've come a long ways with Coastal and we don't want to turn around now. Here before you, you have some men that served with me and all of them are tremendous people. They've done a fantastic job. I like Coastal extremely due to the fact that my background has been in athletics. I played varsity football, basketball in Orange, New Jersey. I left there and went to college at Johnson C. Smith University Presbyterian School. There I captained the football team, played basketball. Made all-conference. I was hired as an assistant coach when I graduated. So I started off in the coaching endeavor at the age of 22. The coach then went to Howard and I went to Howard with him. I was assistant coach at Howard for three years. And then went to NYU where I got my master's degree and while there, the president of Mars College went looking for a football coach and he found out where this young

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

fellow had had four or five years of college experience and he offered me the job. I had never heard of Mars College. I had never been to South Carolina. I took the job and -- but I went there. The first year, we lost every game we played. Every game we played, we left and we lost and the last game of the season, we scored a touchdown, but we still lost the game. The president permitted me to recruit. He gave me all facilities. The next year, we came back, we lost one game. From then on, we were conference champions for years in football, basketball -- boys and girls, so we moved on from there. But here at Coastal, I've been involved in the academic program, the instructional program, and whatever I can do to assist them in the program. All of us here have done that. I don't want to take anything away from any of these people here. They're tremendous people. So I love Coastal, I like being there. We tried to do whatever we could to assist the school and we feel that Coastal is going to be one of the greatest universities in the nation, surpassing all schools in South Carolina, including the University of South Carolina. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Any members have questions? Yes, sir, Representative Mack.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What years were you at Howard University?

MR. BROWN: I was at Howard University -- let's see, in -- let me get it together -- '54 to '57. Eddie Jackson was the coach then. I was the assistant coach.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: That was my school. I wish you had stayed to help us out.

MR. BROWN: That's a beautiful place, beautiful place. Yes, it was. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Next, Mr. Wayne George.

MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I'm a lifelong resident of Mullins in Marion County. I'm currently serving on the Board filling the unexpired term of Cathy Harvin who was elected to the House. Coastal is a special place for me. I attended Coastal Carolina on basketball scholarship in the '70s. My oldest son, Jeff, graduated from Coastal in 2007. My second oldest son is currently a junior at Coastal. And I assume our 11th grader will attend Coastal also. I have not received any tuition

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

discount, but I strongly believe in public service, making life better for others. I have a long history of public service. I was mayor of the City of Mullins for 16 years, served on our City Council for eight years, active in many civic organizations. In closing, Coastal has had tremendous growth. We're one of the fastest growing universities; it's been stated earlier. But with our growth, you know, we've had our share of problems and managing these problems has been a task. I'm very confident we've appointed a great man of vision in our new President, Dr. DeCenzo. And I believe that Coastal is moving in a positive direction. We have a good working Board. And I'm very concerned about how our tax dollars are spent and our tuition. Our students, mothers, fathers, grandparents, in my opinion, are our taxpayers, also. I think we've got to look at how we spend our tax dollars and our tuition payments and take care of our students at Coastal Carolina. Thank you so much for this opportunity to serve and I look forward to a reelection here soon.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any questions from any of the Board?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you, sir, Mr. George. The last one is Mr. William Alford.

MR. ALFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's indeed an honor for me to be here today. I have the great fortune of growing up in this wonderful state and attending the public schools. In 1970, I graduated from Myrtle Beach High School. I attended Coastal Carolina College at that time, a branch of the University of South Carolina. And raised by my parents, teachers, and principals, and coaches, I was instructed there's a higher calling and that higher calling was the service to the country. At that particular time, in 1970, I volunteered for the draft and joined the United States Marine Corp and after spending time in southeast Asia, I came back, attended Coastal for four years and one summer session, I started a business. I graduated, married, and had a child. I served as president of the alumni association. I've served chairman of the Horry County Higher Education Commission. I've served on the Board of Trustees. I'm a big believer of public service and I'm also a huge believer of private-public partnerships. As a result of my opportunity at Coastal, it afforded me the opportunity to serve in other areas such as the chair of the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation as well as Santee Cooper and

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

others. I am committed more than ever that higher education is absolutely critical to the future of our area and especially to the Neese area which consists of nine different counties. I'm absolutely committed to the state and I look forward as an honor to serve again for four more years.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Any questions for any Board members?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. Thank you, sir. Okay. That completes our Coastal University screening. Would that college, the following people. Do I have a motion?

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Mr. Chairman, I move that the candidates for Coastal Carolina University be passed out.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Second.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? All in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Let it be noted that Larry Biddle, Natasha Hanna, Robert Templeton, William Lyles, Wyatt Henderson, Brad Spink, Robert Brown, Wayne George, William Alford have all been reported out. Would y'all please stand? Let me remind you that until -- even though you've been reported out favorably, the -- until it is printed in the Journal, 48 hours afterwards, you're not to seek any commitments. And after 48 hours, you can. If you're caught seeking commitments prior to the 48 hours, that can disqualify you. Thank y'all for coming. Okay, the Old Exchange Building Commission. I'm going to have to go and I'd just like somebody to tell me what this commission is. Is there anybody here can tell us briefly -- not about your candidacy -- but what the commission is.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: It directs the operations of the Old Exchange Building which is out -- located on Broad Street in downtown Charleston.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Colonial structure.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: So this is solely within Charleston?

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Okay. All right. I'm going to turn the chair to --

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Have they been sworn in?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: They've been sworn in. Yes. They've been sworn in. Just need to --

MR. MOSKOS: I have not.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: You have not?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir. I came here a little bit late. I apologize.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Raise your right hand please. State your name.

MR. MOSKOS: My name is Steve Moskos.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, concerning your candidacy to this Board and Commission.

MR. MOSKOS: Yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN KNOTTS: Thank you. Okay. I'm going to turn it over to --

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Alexia Jones Helsley. Ms. Helsley, I'd like to ask you a few questions before we get started.

MS. HELSLEY: Yes, sir. I don't think I have been sworn.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: You haven't? Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

MS. HELSEY: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you. These -- would you please answer these questions: Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MS. HELSEY: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MS. HELSLEY: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MS. HELSLEY: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MS. HELSLEY: No, sir.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you. Would you make a statement Ms. Helsley about the -- why you want to serve?

MS. HELSLEY: Yes, sir. I'm a career archivist, historian, and educator. I worked over 33 years with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. And currently, I'm instructor of History at USC Aiken. In addition, I have published numerous works on South Carolina History and on the revolution in South Carolina. The Old Exchange Building is more than just a colonial structure. It has been pivotal in the revolution in South Carolina. On it's steps, the last governor -- royal governor entered Charleston through the east portico of the Old Exchange Building. So it is a state treasure that needs to be interpreted and enjoyed by the state as a whole. I think my archival background, my historical background, and my background as an educator, not only a teacher, but in the development of curriculum materials, my interests in historic preservation, I did serve with Charles Lee for many years. Would mean that I can contribute to the interpretation and preservation of this wonderful icon of South Carolina's early history as South Carolina's resistance to foreign invasion and of South Carolina's great love for liberty. So I look forward to having that opportunity and would make the preservation of the building and the interpretation of the vary diverse history associated with the building my top priority. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Ms. Helsley, let me ask you a couple of questions.

MS. HELSLEY: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you a member of the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the DAR or the society of the DAR? If so, how do you see your role if elected?

MS. HELSLEY: I am not a member of the Rebecca Motte Chapter. I have written a historical biography of Rebecca Motte that will be published in June by the University of Georgia. I am a member of the National Society of the DAR. My membership until recently was in Hendersonville, North Carolina, my mother's chapter. I recently moved it to the University Chapter. I'm afraid I am not a very active member because they usually meet while I am at work.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Next question: Are you willing and able to devote the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October to attend the commission meetings?

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

MS. HELSELY: Yes, sir. I can schedule my classwork around that.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you. Any questions for Ms. Helsley?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I just commend you for the work that they do. I'm -- by the way, I'm a descendant of John Rutledge, so I've got a lot of interest in --

MS. HELSLEY: Well, I am lecturing today on the coming of the revolution. So president John is coming up.

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: Okay. Well, be kind to him.

MS. HELSLEY: I will. I will. We don't have to tell everything in class. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you, Ms. Helsley.

S. Steven Moskos.

MR. MOSKOS: Yes, sir. Just for clarification, the first initial should be a "C" instead of an "S." I didn't know if that made a difference, but I thought I'd bring it up.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Have you been sworn in, Mr. Moskos?

MR. MOSKOS: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you. Let me ask a few questions. Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. MOSKOS: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Let me ask you these questions first, Mr. Moskos, before you state why you want to serve.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

Are you a member of the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the DAR or the Society of the DAR?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: If so, how do you see your role if elected?

MR. MOSKOS: No, sir. I'm not a member of that chapter.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay. Are you willing and able to devote the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October to attend the commission meetings?

MR. MOSKOS: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay. Thank you. We'll hear why you want to serve on this Board.

MR. MOSKOS: Yes, sir. Thank you. I'm here today because history must be maintained, preserved, and protected. I grew up in Charleston. My grandparents came over from Greece and it's from a small island in the 1930's. And they had a grocery store in downtown Charleston and above that, they had their home. And they lived there and raised a family, my dad and my aunt. In fact, I grew up there myself, because they still maintain that grocery store in the '70s and I was down there working for them while my parents were working and on Saturdays. I have seen Charleston at a time when it is or was not so great. But it has been revitalized and is now a beautiful, beautiful city. And every week, I drive down to Broad Street. I drive down the road. And I see the Old Exchange Building. It's a beautiful structure. It's a beautiful building. And it has the most wonderful characters outside because the people there are standing in the outfits from the 1700's and you can just imagine the horse-drawn carriages coming down the road. You can see the business going on in that area. And it's just a wonderful connection to our past. I grew -- when I was growing up, I was being taught history in elementary school. I loved it. I was fascinated by it -- the people, the stories. Went into middle school, continued to enjoy history, and in high school, it was my favorite subject. In fact, so much so that when I went to the University of South Carolina, I took history as my major. History is a dynamic and living creature that must be maintained, preserved, and protected. I think I can do that. I'm an attorney in Charleston. I live west of the Ashley. I live in the city. My practice is west of the Ashley, but I do have a lot of work downtown in Charleston. Table 51 of the code deals with this

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

commission. And the function of the Board is to negotiate contracts. I do that all the time. That's a part of my business. I represent people who are having consumer law issues such as problems with car dealers, lemon cars. I deal with Ford, General Motors, Chrysler on a day-to-day basis. I deal with insurance companies. I negotiate contracts and resolutions to problems. We're talking about accepting and spending money. As a small business person -- small business owner, I know a lot of people don't think of attorneys as small business owners, but we are. I have to maintain a budget. I have to look at where money is going. I have to find out how to raise money for my office on a day-to-day basis. In fact, I was there on Sunday, work -- trying to figure it out because of these hard economic times that we're having. I understand what this commission is about. I understand what needs to be done and I believe that I can help the commission move forward. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Any questions for Mr. Moskos?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you, sir.

MR. MOSKOS: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay. The next gentleman is Greg Ohanesian.

MR. OHANESIAN: Ohanesian.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Excuse Mr. Ohanesian. Could you pronounce that word?

MR. OHANESIAN: Oh-ha-nee-jhan.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Ohanesian. Okay. You have been sworn in?

MR. OHANESIAN: I have.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Would you answer these questions for me please? Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. OHANESIAN: No.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. OHANESIAN: Yes.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. OHANESIAN: No.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. OHANESIAN: No.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you a member of the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the DAR or the Society of the DAR?

MR. OHANESIAN: I am not, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you willing and able to devote the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October to attend the commission meetings?

MR. OHANESIAN: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Will you state your intent to serve on the Board.

MR. OHANESIAN: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I appreciate your patience. It's getting close to the end of the day. I received my bachelor's and master's degree from the University of South Carolina. My *juris doctorate* degree from George Mason University in Northern Virginia in 1980, began practicing law in Bennettsville. During that time, have served as assistant solicitor, municipal judge, acting public defender, town attorney for Blount, Clio, McCall, and Bennettsville. Presently still serving as town attorney for Bennettsville. I -- in addition to my legal experience, in my spare time, I am actively engaged in the restoration of old buildings and have done several over the years and have two projects presently going, one in Charleston and one in Greenwood County. I restored my own home in Bennettsville and that work began in 1972, so I've been doing that restorative work for a long time. I am an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the SAR, brother organization to the DAR. And have been, in fact, past president of the state society of the SAR. I jump back to my role as an attorney, I'm also past president of the South Carolina Municipal Attorney's Association. I have been encouraged by members of the DAR to seek this seat. I believe that my work as an attorney, my restorative work hands-on with buildings that I've purchased and restored, as well as my SAR connection will help me

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

serve the State of South Carolina on this commission in a very unique way. I'd be pleased to answer any questions.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay. Any questions for Mr. Ohanesian?

THE COMMITTEE: (No response.)

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you, sir, for coming today. Next on the list is Donald Pittman. Mr. Pittman, you've been sworn?

MR. PITTMAN: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: I need to ask you a few questions: Do you have any health-related problems that the screening committee should be made aware of that would prevent you from serving on the Board in a full capacity?

MR. PITTMAN: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Considering your present occupation and other activities, would you be able to attend Board meetings on a regular basis?

MR. PITTMAN: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you have any interests, professionally or personally, that present a conflict of interest because of your service on the Board?

MR. PITTMAN: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do you now hold any public position of honor or trust that, if elected to the Board, would cause you to violate the dual office holding clause of the constitution?

MR. PITTMAN: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you a member of the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the DAR or the Society of the DAR?

MR. PITTMAN: No, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Are you willing and able to devote the fourth Tuesday of January, April, July, and October to attend the commission meetings?

MR. PITTMAN: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Okay. Thank you. You have a statement?

MR. PITTMAN: Yes. I have been involved with the Old Exchange for twelve years. I started out as a tour guide for the facility doing both daytime, evening tours. I wrote a tour guide manual for the tour guides, help with the training, and so forth. Beyond that, I also

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

did an architectural study of the building. I did an architectural paper review of this, had never been done. And quite interesting, I had the pleasure of working with John Mitchell who was the head architect during the 1981 restoration. I also put together a permanent architectural exhibit in the Exchange Building. Probably, one of the more challenging things was the director at the time asked that I reestablish Friends of the Old Exchange, a nonprofit fund raising organization. Our purpose is basically augment the educational programs by obtaining, you know, educational supplies, exhibits, what have you, and also to promote and help preserve the Old Exchange Building. Well this involved getting 501-C3 status. Little did I know how involved it was. I contacted an attorney and they said, "Well, it will be \$5,000 if they will do it." I said, "We have none, not that kind of money." I was fortunate to get involved with South Carolina Association of Non-Profit organizations. They have a two day seminar. I learned how to submit the forms and so forth, and believe me, there were a ton of them, both state, federal. It took me about six months to eight months till it was approved -- if approved. Mine came back approved in six weeks, which I was delighted with. We have raised over \$25,000 to help the Old Exchange Building. One of our main things was the lower level was defective, not working well, and a good part of the educational experience with many children who come through. We raised \$6,000 and had this repaired. We've also bought exhibit cases, mannequins, costumes for the period guides. I would currently have a boat, a model boat of the Fair American which was a gunner that sailed in and out of Charleston Harbor in those colonial times. We bought the model and we're having it professionally assembled and then we will buy the cabinet so it will be a permanent display. The book "Charleston's Old Exchange Building" has been out of print for many years. Former publisher did not want to continue publishing it. I worked with Ruth Miller, Ann Taylor Andress and between all of them working with publishers and so forth, we got it back in print. That was again quite a challenging job because we had to contact -- I contacted any individual groups, photos, graphics, we were using. We had to go get approval to do all that again. I chaired the meetings for that and got the ball rolling. And it's back to print and it's been a good fun maker for the Old Exchange Building. Probably one of the most challenging things is in my

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

briefcase, was what's been accumulating refers to as survival of the documents. Not to be disrespectful, but all the documents regarding the history, legal of the Old Exchange were scattered everywhere, from file to file. I dug through these files. It took months. Located all these documents, went down to the courthouse. I researched and put them in some type of order that they're easily accessible. Of course, it begins with the first letter to Congress to acquire the Old Exchange Building dating back to the late 1800's right up to the current. It contains leases, the management policy, relationships between the Rebecca Motte Chapter, South Carolina Chapter of the DAR, the City of Charleston who manages it, and also the Old Exchange Commission. So now, if something's needed to be researched, located quickly, we do have a way of doing that. I feel that in view of this, that I would be able, you know, hopefully be a positive addition to the commission.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you, Mr. Pittman --

MR. PITTMAN: Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: — for your service and time.

Are there any questions for Mr. Pittman? Thank you sir, for serving.

MR. PITTMAN: Well, thank you for your consideration.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Do I have motion?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITMIRE: I move that we accept all four of these.

REPRESENTATIVE MACK: Second.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: I have a motion and second to report these candidates out favorably. All in favor say, "Aye."

THE COMMITTEE: Aye.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Gentleman, would y'all please stand. Let the record show that Alexia Helsley, Steven Moskos, Greg Ohanesian, and Donald Pittman have been reported out favorably and as you've been told before that. You cannot seek commitments until after 48 hours that your name appears in the House Journal. Is that understood by everyone?

THE CANDIDATES: Yes, sir.

REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEJOHN: Thank you for coming and participating today. We stand adjourned.

(Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.)

Received as information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

On motion of Senator KNOTTS, the report was ordered printed in the Journal.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:10 A.M., on motion of Senator COURSON, the Senate adjourned to meet next Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 12:00 Noon.

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